# FACT SHEET: PERFLUORINATED COMPOUNDS (PFCS)

October 1, 2018

Media reports, including a September 30 article in the Arizona Daily Star, have addressed perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) in the Tucson Water system.

1. **Is my water safe to drink?**
   Yes, the water is safe for all uses including drinking. It was also safe during the time period discussed in the September 30, 2018 Arizona Daily Star article.

2. **Is my water contaminated?**
   No. In September, Tucson Water detected that PFCs were present at levels below 50% of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Health Advisory coming out of a treatment plant, and took steps to reduce levels of these compounds even further. PFCs were detected at 30 parts per trillion (ppt) or less; the EPA Health Advisory is 70 ppt. NSF, an independent standards organization, certifies home drinking water filters for reducing PFCs to 70 ppt or below.

3. **Did Tucson Water make a mistake that jeopardized public health?**
   No, at no time was public health in jeopardy. Tucson Water mis-located one of several water quality sampling points for the Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP). This sampling point did not register PFCs, while other sampling points indicated they were present 30 parts per trillion (ppt) or less. The EPA Health Advisory is 70 ppt. Tucson Water temporarily shut down the TARP facility to investigate the differences between the sample points and develop a strategy to further reduce PFCs--not because public health was at risk.

4. **If Tucson Water didn't make a mistake that jeopardized public health, what did happen?**
   Even though the EPA Health Advisory is 70 ppt, out of an abundance of caution we have set a voluntary, aggressive target of 18 ppt for PFCs throughout the system. The mis-located sampling point was discovered in the process of testing all our water sources for PFCs. Tucson Water is now blending water from the AOP facility with water from other sources to maintain PFCs at or below 18 ppt.

   **For more information, visit tucsonaz.gov/water/pfcs**